

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 706

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville.

WHEREAS, December 15-16, 2019, will mark the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, a decisive victory by the Union Army during the Civil War that effectively ended the war in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after its fall to the Union in 1862, Nashville became a major supply line for Union troops in the South and one of the most heavily fortified cities in the country outside of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 1864, Confederate General John Bell Hood and the Army of Tennessee sought to attack Middle Tennessee and cut off the Union supply lines to stall the advance of federal troops in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, after being badly defeated at the Battle of Franklin, General Hood gathered his remaining force of 30,000 men and pressed northward with the goal of attacking Nashville in mid-December; and

WHEREAS, Nashville was defended by 55,000 federal troops under the leadership of General George H. Thomas; the force was composed of units from several different departments attached to the Army of the Cumberland, including a division that included eight regiments of United States Colored Troops; and

WHEREAS, fought over two days, the Battle of Nashville commenced on December 15, 1864, when, according to historians, Union troops opened fire from Fort Negley, the largest inland fort built in the United States during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, General Hood's battle plan to draw the Union army from their defensive positions and then pose a counterattack proved unsuccessful, as General Thomas launched a

diversionary assault on the Confederate left before attacking with his main body of troops on the Confederate right; and

WHEREAS, on the second day, General Thomas's Union troops pounded Confederate positions with artillery barrages before attacking with sheer numbers, overrunning the Confederate defenses as more and more soldiers fell in battle, fled, or surrendered; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Nashville saw the Confederates suffer over 6,000 casualties from among its 30,000 troops, with 4,500 captured; the Federal troops saw just over 3,000 casualties, with 387 dead, 2,558 wounded, and 112 missing or captured; and

WHEREAS, the defeat at Nashville effectively destroyed the Army of Tennessee as a fighting force and led to General Hood's resignation of command in January 1865 and the subsequent surrender of the Confederate States of America on May 1, 1865; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the State of Tennessee remember those significant events that preserved our union; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commemorate the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, reflecting on the impact of the battle on this State and this nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.